(c) the steps Government have taken to prevent the wastage of natural gas by flaring ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) At present around 4.4 Million Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas is being flared, on an average, in all the oil and gas fields, both offshore and onland. Low pressure/ unutilized gas needs to be burnt, *i.e.* flared, keeping in view the safe operation of plants, safety of nearby areas and protection of the environment. This is so because if vented in the atmosphere, the unflared gas would pose a safety hazard and also create more pollution. In order to reduce gas flaring to the minimum practicable, the oil and gas producing companies are taking various measures, such as low pressure gas recovery, replacement of flaring systems, flare gas recovery and operational modifications.

Closure of gas cylinder manufacturing companies

†2390. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several gas cylinder manufacturing companies in the country are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are considering to take any steps to save them from closure ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) In order to procure the LPG cylinders at competitive rates, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies floated the tenders. The placement of order on the tenderers depends upon their qualification as per the terms and conditions of the tender. It is likely that some of the cylinder manufacturing units may not get the orders from the Oil Marketing Companies, if they do not qualify as per tender terms and conditions.

Allocation and supply of natural gas

2391. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of natural gas made for per day exceeds supply of it per day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) how the gap would be filled in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Natural gas being eco-friendly and an economic feedstock fuel, an allocation to the extent of around 118.66 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas has been made to the consumers in the various sectors including power, fertilizers and other industries, keeping in view the various demands. However, the current availability of natural gas is around 65 MMSCMD.

(d) To bridge the gap between demand and supply of natural gas there are various initiatives to increase domestic production through indigenous exploration and exploitation and also to import natural gas and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India.

Selling of valuable art works of NGMA

2392. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan in the near future or at present to sell out the valuable art works to different exponents from the National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA), New Delhi; and

(b) the mode of selection of such art works which will be sold off?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Central assistance for Science City in Gujarat

2393. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government for release of Rs.41 crores to Science City Project at Ahmedabad;